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Higher Education of Women in Glasgow

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M.A., LL.D.

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AN ADDRESS

At the unveiling of a Memorial Window in the
Bute Hall of the University of Glasgow
on 4th May, 1914

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Higher Education of Women in Glasgow

We are to-day assembled to commemorate Miss Janet Ann Galloway, the Honorary Secretary of Queen Margaret College, and her work for the higher education of women. Queen Margaret College with its many hundreds of students, its long and ever-growing Roll of Graduates in every Faculty—Arts and Science, Medicine and Theology—its many activities and world-wide reputation, might be thought to be an institution of ancient date gathering in the fruits of labour in years long gone, but this is not so. It is only twenty years since the first woman graduated in the University of Glasgow; but one generation has passed since Queen Margaret College came into being. In 1867 the first University lectures to women were delivered in Edinburgh; and next year the late Mrs. Campbell of Tullichewan arranged for a similar course in Glasgow. Scotland had never been without women of culture, women distinguished as poetesses and song-writers, as dramatists and novelists. In this place we need but mention Anne Grant, and Joanna Baillie, daughter of our professor of divinity, "the immortal Joanna" as Scott styles her. But culture and learning

as respects women had to be acquired by private study. A woman's education ended with school; the gates of the universities were closed to her. Joanna Baillie had a great love of mathematics, but no means existed for enabling her to develop her talents in this direction.

All were not blind to the situation, and some attempts were made to correct it. Professor John Anderson, in planning his Institution, suggested that limited courses of Physical lectures for ladies should be provided so that "the ladies in Glasgow may have an opportunity . . . of being at several of these courses of lectures" . . . and acquiring such a stock of general knowledge "as will make them the most accomplished ladies in Europe." Accordingly when, in 1796, Dr. Thomas Garnett was appointed the first Professor of Natural Philosophy and Chemistry in Anderson's Institution in this city, he threw open his classes to women upon the same footing as to men, "and it must be said in their favour," he adds, "that they have not neglected to avail themselves of it." "The most splendid seminaries have in all ages," he continues, "and in every country been founded and endowed with the most profuse liberality for the education of men; every science that could exalt the genius, humanize the heart, or enlarge the understanding, has been taught them with unremitting pains; while the softer sex, whose minds are naturally moulded to refinement, and who are at least capable of the enjoyment of intellectual pleasures, have been left to languish in ignorance, and suffered, for want of opportunities, to acquire a taste for what is frivolous and unworthy of the human mind."

This was, however, but an isolated attempt to place the

education of women upon a better footing. The time for a general movement had not yet come; the labour of two generations was needed to bring it about. The efforts of the first half of the nineteenth century for the diffusion of knowledge, for the extension of education, for the improvement of teaching, produced marked changes in public opinion; new ideas emerged; the point of view shifted. The conception of woman's position and work in the world broadened, and it began to be conceded that her sphere was larger and higher than had hitherto been accorded to her, that education was not a matter of sex, and that to enable her duly to fill the place allotted to her, she must be as adequately equipped as her co-labourer of the other sex.

The University lectures for women inaugurated in 1868 were the first movings of the new spirit. On the occasion of the visit of the British Association to Glasgow, in 1876, Mr. James Grahame organized a meeting of those interested in the higher education of women. The outcome was the formation, in the following year, of The Glasgow Association for the Higher Education of Women. H.R.H. Princess Louise was graciously pleased to become its President, and Mrs. Campbell of Tullichewan was appointed Vice-President. The University did everything in its power to further the objects of the Association; and annual courses of lectures to women on University subjects were given by University professors in University class-rooms. Six years later, the Association was incorporated and named Queen Margaret College, after the saintly queen of Malcolm Canmore, who brought light and learning to Scotland, and inaugurated a new era in our country's history. Instruction in the College

was organized on University lines, and the subjects then qualifying for a degree in Arts were taught, although degrees themselves were not at that time obtainable by women.

The College lacked a home, but this was supplied by the generosity of Mrs. Elder, who in 1883 gifted to the institution the beautiful residence and grounds of North Park House; and, as supplementary, an Endowment Fund of upwards of £25,000 was provided by the exertions of many friends, notably of Mrs. Campbell. Suitable alterations having been made upon the buildings, the College in 1884 entered into possession with Miss Galloway as its resident Head, and the name Queen Margaret College was substituted for North Park House. In 1890 a Medical School was organized, and laboratories for teaching in science and in medicine were provided. The Scottish Universities having been empowered by Ordinance in 1892 to provide for the education of women, advantage was taken of this authority by the University of Glasgow; an agreement was come to with Queen Margaret College, and in the session 1892-93, its students were admitted matriculated students of the University. In 1893, the University having undertaken to provide University instruction for women by the institution of separate classes, Queen Margaret College, its grounds, buildings, equipment and invested funds were transferred to the University to be devoted to the establishment and maintenance of University classes for women exclusively. In 1894 a student of Queen Margaret College became the first woman graduate of the University in Medicine; the first graduation in Arts took place in 1895, and the first in Science in 1898.

What had been but dimly foreshadowed in 1868 was accomplished in 1893. The intervening period had, however, been years of incessant toil; much had to be planned, much to be carried out. It was to the initiative of Mrs. Campbell, to her steady support and unflagging energy that the success of the movement was largely due. "At the head of the movement," said Sir James King, speaking in 1888, "was one lady whose indefatigable zeal not only in starting, but ever since had been used to promote the success of the undertaking. Up to her strength, and beyond her strength, she had never ceased to advocate the importance of the work." During the five succeeding years, Mrs. Campbell laboured incessantly for the College; she watched over it then, and after its absorption by the University, with maternal interest until her death in 1907. Many other zealous and unwearied workers helped to establish and carry on the various activities of the Association and the College. Miss Jane S. Macarthur took the principal charge of the very successful correspondence classes until 1889, when her place was taken by Miss Duncan. Mrs. Lindsay acted for some time as one of the honorary secretaries of the Association; Mrs. Scott, Mrs. Young, Mrs. Campbell Douglas, Dr. A. B. M'Grigor, and Mr. Spens gave valuable assistance in various ways. Professor Young, Professor Stewart, Professor Veitch, and Professor Edward Caird were members of council, and took an active part in the management. They and several other professors and lecturers, notably the brilliant John Nichol, the gifted Professor of English Literature, assisted in carrying on the classes. Principal Caird was a warm and steady supporter of the movement. "Keep knocking at the

gates till they are opened," was his oft-repeated advice.

The College did not restrict itself to providing instruction in the subjects taught in the University, but went beyond these and instituted courses in Modern Languages, History, Painting, and the Theory of Music. Principal Lindsay's stimulating and illuminating lectures on History will be long remembered. Neither Modern Languages nor History became University subjects until several years later.

The task of organizing, arranging, and carrying on the work, first of the Association, and next of the College, lay with Miss Galloway. She became one of the Secretaries of the Association in 1877, accepted the office of Honorary Secretary of the College upon its incorporation in 1883, and discharged its duties during the remainder of her life, having continued in the same position when the College was incorporated with the University.

Janet Ann Galloway was born in the parish of Campsie on 10th October, 1841. She was carefully educated in this country, and afterwards in France, Germany and Holland. She was well read in the literature of the two former countries, and spoke and wrote their languages with ease and accuracy. She had a sound knowledge of history and some acquaintance with archaeology, and was a proficient in music. On leaving school, she was trained by her father in the methods of business, and learned all the details of office work. Finding by experience the disadvantages to which women were subjected by reason of the restricted character of their education and the consequent limitation of their activities, she

became an ardent supporter of the movement for the removal of these limitations and for the provision for women of an education of the same character as that of men. A Conservative in her political views, she was most progressive in all that related to education. She was in sympathy with all movements for its improvement, and had a clear insight into the needs of educational progress and reform.

The office of Secretary was not an easy one to fill; its duties were many, onerous, and exacting. The aim of the Association was definite, but the means by which its object was to be attained were only vaguely discernible. Miss Galloway, however, had the problem fully before her, and had a firm grasp of its features. The ultimate admission of women to the Universities was in the dim distance; the immediate object of the Association was to provide University teaching for women in University subjects. To secure this, she worked with great earnestness. The scheme of instruction had to be drawn up; the subjects that were to be studied, the standard, and the method of teaching had to be fixed; instructors had to be secured. These were ultimately decided on by the Council, but material for their guidance had to be collected and arranged by the Secretary, and she spared no pains in doing so; in sifting it and putting it in shape. There was no lack of students, but the multiplicity of the subjects in which instruction was desired was embarrassing; and it was only gradually that the Association was able to fix upon definite courses, to limit itself to these, and to bring the teaching up to University standard.

The tale of work which fell to Miss Galloway was

heavy. Her correspondence was very extensive and her letters were always full. She had to keep herself informed of what was being done as respects the higher education of women, and what was possible here within the limits of our University system. She had to make the necessary arrangements with professors, lecturers and examiners, to attend to all the wants of students. Differences occasionally arose amongst the members of the staff, complaints came from parents and students; all these had to be composed and arranged by the Secretary, a matter in which she displayed supreme tact and unwearying patience. She was never daunted. No matter how much was asked of her, she took it up and carried it through without complaint. Speaking in 1891, Professor Young said he desired to acknowledge "in connection with the organisation of the medical school, the remarkable business capacity and untiring energy" of Miss Galloway. Her autumn holiday was generally devoted to visiting some school or college and for getting information about new methods. In 1893 she went to Chicago, by special invitation, to represent Queen Margaret College and the Higher Education of Women in Glasgow and the West of Scotland, at the great Exhibition.

When the College was absorbed by the University, Miss Galloway became a University official. New duties were laid on her, and in carrying these out she had the ever-ready assistance of Dr. Stewart, the Clerk of Senate, who took endless pains in bringing the new arrangements into working order and in making the women's department of the University a success.

Queen Margaret College, as a separate institution, may be said to have been Miss Galloway's creation. Its

distinctive features, those characteristics which give it vitality and popularity, were in the main attributable to her. She gave it individuality when it became a University department, and proved herself a broad-minded and judicious administrator, always in harmony with the Court and Senate and scrupulous in exactly carrying out what they desired. She at the same time imparted to the College a character and function all its own.

The University has hitherto failed to carry out efficiently its undertaking to provide at Queen Margaret College separate classes and instructors for women, but the maintenance of the College as the department of the University for women has been of the greatest benefit to the students, and this is largely owing to the wise administration of Miss Galloway. She knew her students personally, she was interested in each of them, she encouraged them, advised them, helped them in their difficulties, visited them when they were sick, and if need be fought for them. Negligent of anything concerning herself, she was ever on the alert to guard and vindicate the rights of the College and of her students. When the old custom of residence and a common table in the University of Glasgow died out as the number of students increased, social life amongst them ceased to exist, which was an undoubted loss. Miss Galloway did everything possible to promote college and social life amongst the women students. She brought them together in "At Homes," and other social gatherings; she encouraged the formation of societies—the Debating Society, the Dramatic Society, the Medical Club, the Union—and was always ready to assist or take part in their work. She kept in touch with

her students after they had left College, took the keenest interest in their careers, and promoted the formation of the Women Graduates Association. The result has been to produce an extraordinary solidarity amongst the women students of the University of Glasgow, and to create something akin to the strong bond of union which is so marked in American Universities under the Class system.

Miss Galloway's energies were not confined to Queen Margaret College itself. She early saw the desirability of providing residence for such women as desired it, and was one of the founders of Queen Margaret Hall. The Hall has not met with the encouragement which was expected, but there is little doubt that ere long a further effort will be made to carry out a scheme such as Miss Galloway contemplated.

A field for social work for women students was wanted. In 1897 Queen Margaret College Settlement Association was formed, Miss Galloway acting as Convener of the Committee for promoting its work. This was the first women's University settlement in Scotland, and has been markedly successful.

The University did not fail to recognize Miss Galloway's great practical abilities, her organizing powers, and her punctilious performance of every duty entrusted to her, and highly appreciated her long and faithful services. They nominated her as one of their representatives on the Glasgow Provincial Committee for the Training of Teachers, and in its work she took a useful and an active part. In 1907, by the authority of the Senate, they conferred upon her the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws, as they had already done in the case of Mrs. Elder

and Mrs. Campbell, thus distinguishing in a fitting manner the three women by whose long and strenuous efforts University education was placed within the reach of all women.

From the time that Miss Galloway accepted the secretaryship of the Association in 1877 down to her death she acted gratuitously. She worked solely for the love of the cause she had at heart, and she had her reward in reaching the goal for which she strove. Money's-worth is not the standard by which to measure Miss Galloway's devotion and self-sacrifice, but it will be seen how large an endowment she contributed to the College, when we remember that she rendered services of the most important kind without remuneration for the long period of thirty-two years.

When Miss Galloway died, on the 23rd of January, 1909, the University lost one of its most active and capable officers, the cause of Women's University Education lost one of its most zealous and judicious supporters, and all who knew her a warm-hearted, true and generous friend. There was a widespread wish that her memory and her work should be marked by some memorial. A fund was raised, and after careful consideration it was thought that in no manner could this be more appropriately done than by placing a window in this stately hall, the meeting place of the University, the scene of all its ceremonial functions. This window is intended to remind the generation of to-day and generations to come of the efforts of many years to secure for women an education of the same quality as that provided for men, and of the realization of these efforts in the admission of women to the University, and to commemorate those who strove

for this, especially Miss Galloway, one of the most arduous and efficient workers in the cause and the sympathetic guide and friend of those who enjoyed the privileges which had been won for them. Her work was carried on in Queen Margaret College, and as part of this Memorial a tablet will be affixed to its walls, so that all who enter may have her name before them.

We thus desire to pay a tribute to the memory of a high-minded and noble woman, one who lived and worked for the good of others, and who had the happy fortune of bringing to a successful issue that for which she strove and which she most ardently desired.

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